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DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR
RECREATIONAL USE (OVER-NIGHT CAMPING
MOTORCYCLE TRAINING & REC. AREA)
Hamakua, Hawaii

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1976?

BIG ISLAND MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

DRAFT ²
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Recreational Use (over-night camping, motorcycle
training & recreational area) at Pohakuloa, Hawaii

Kaohē, Hamakua, Hawaii
TMK: 4-4-15: portion 4

Prepared by:
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

In consultation with:
Leo I. Fleming, Civil Engineer
P. O. Box 396
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

A. SUMMARY SHEET

1. Objective

Site selection approval for the use of over-night camping facilities and motorcycle rider's training and recreational area. The facility would be for the use of Big Island motorcycle riders and those visiting from the other islands and would be maintained and operated by the Big Island Motorcycle Association; a family-oriented motorcycle organization with approximately 200 members and a total family involvement of over 1,000 people on the Big Island.

2. Site Location

The recommended site is located 300 to 500 feet mauka of the Saddle Road approximately 1.7 miles southeast of the Kilohana Girl Scout Camp and approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the main entrance into the Pohakuloa Army Camp headquarters area.

3. Site Description

Approximately 180 acres of Kaohē, Hamakua, Hawaii are involved. The recommended site approximates an attenuated, irregular triangle paralleling the Saddle Road for a distance of nearly 10,000 feet and with a parcel width ranging from nearly 1,300 feet down to approximately 100 feet. The cross-slope on the parcel ranges from 13% on the mauka side to nearly level on the side nearest the Saddle Road. The recommended site is currently not in use except for the telephone and electric lines that run lengthwise through it. The closest occasional inhabited structure is at the girl scout camp approximately 1.7 miles away. The recommended site does not have any historical or archeological significance.

4. Site Improvements

There will be no clearing or grubbing and no earthwork except at the site of the toilet facilities, the water-tank and the immediate surrounding area; a total area of less than 2,000 square feet. The parking area will not be cleared, but will be trimmed from time to time as is found necessary for autos, pick-ups and campers to park. Construction of a very basic toilet structure(s) and a small water tank is anticipated and will be painted colors that complement the surrounding area in its natural state. In basic preponderance, the site will be left as is with only the minor facilities noted.

5. Most Significant Impact

The most significant impact would be the occasional creation of dust during periods of low rainfall, which impact will be discussed further in this statement.

6. Consideration of Alternatives

The first alternative of "do nothing" was considered but would not solve the long-standing problem of an area where motorcycles could be operated off-road in an area that would be both centrally located on the Big Island and which would be generally not offensive to anyone. Other sites were considered but this site was the only one found, even on the Big Island, which is generally located centrally to its proposed users, and which would have a limited effect on the environment. With this site selected, a site development plan was developed showing the aforementioned facilities.

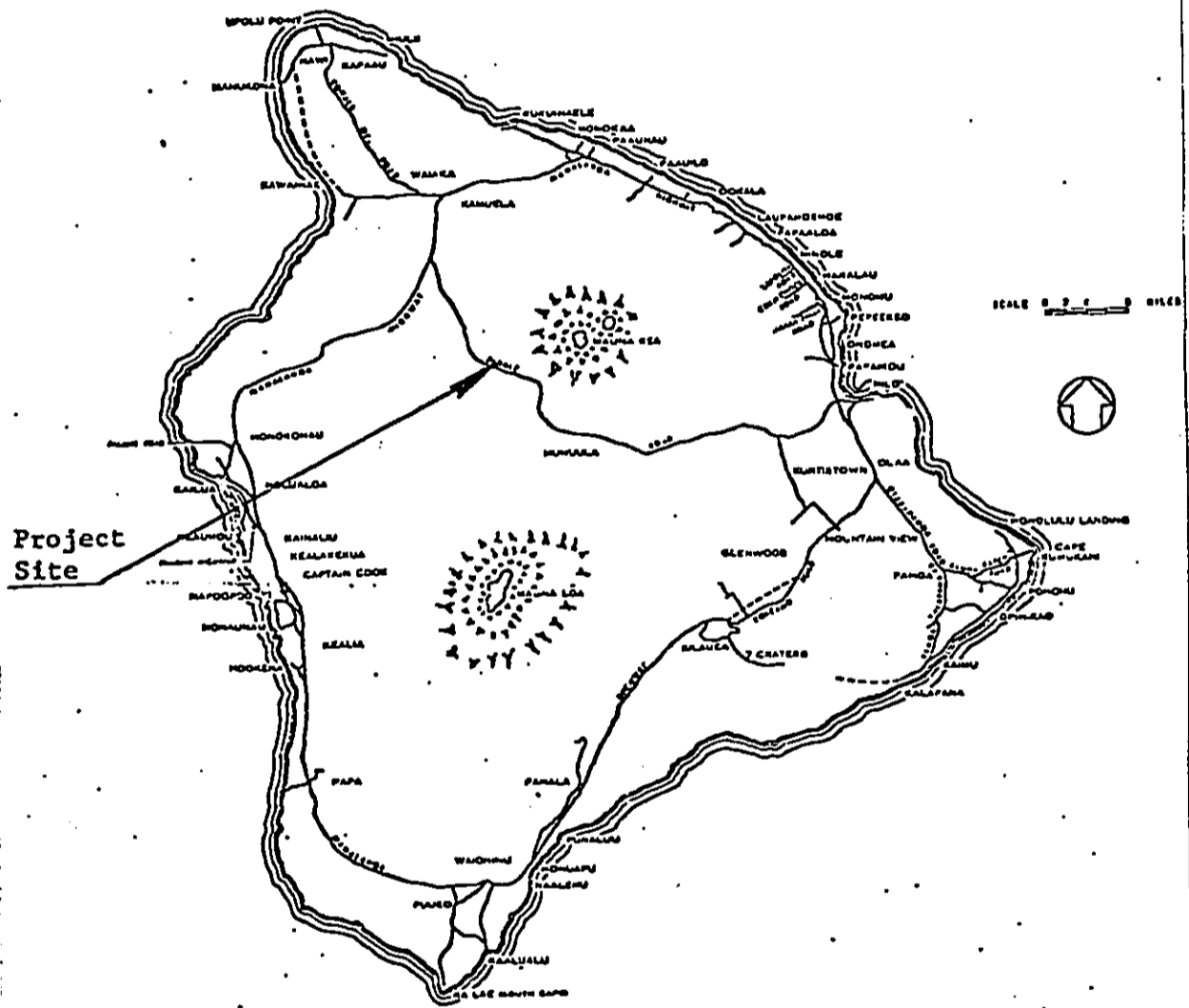
7. Special Site Considerations for the Proposed Use.

The proposed use appears to be an ideal transition and buffer zone use to separate the Pohakuloa military training exercises makai from the Kaohe Game Management Area, Unit G, mauka. The proposed area has been an unused area these past years due primarily from the need in this location for just such a transition zone which the camping and motorcycle useage will provide.

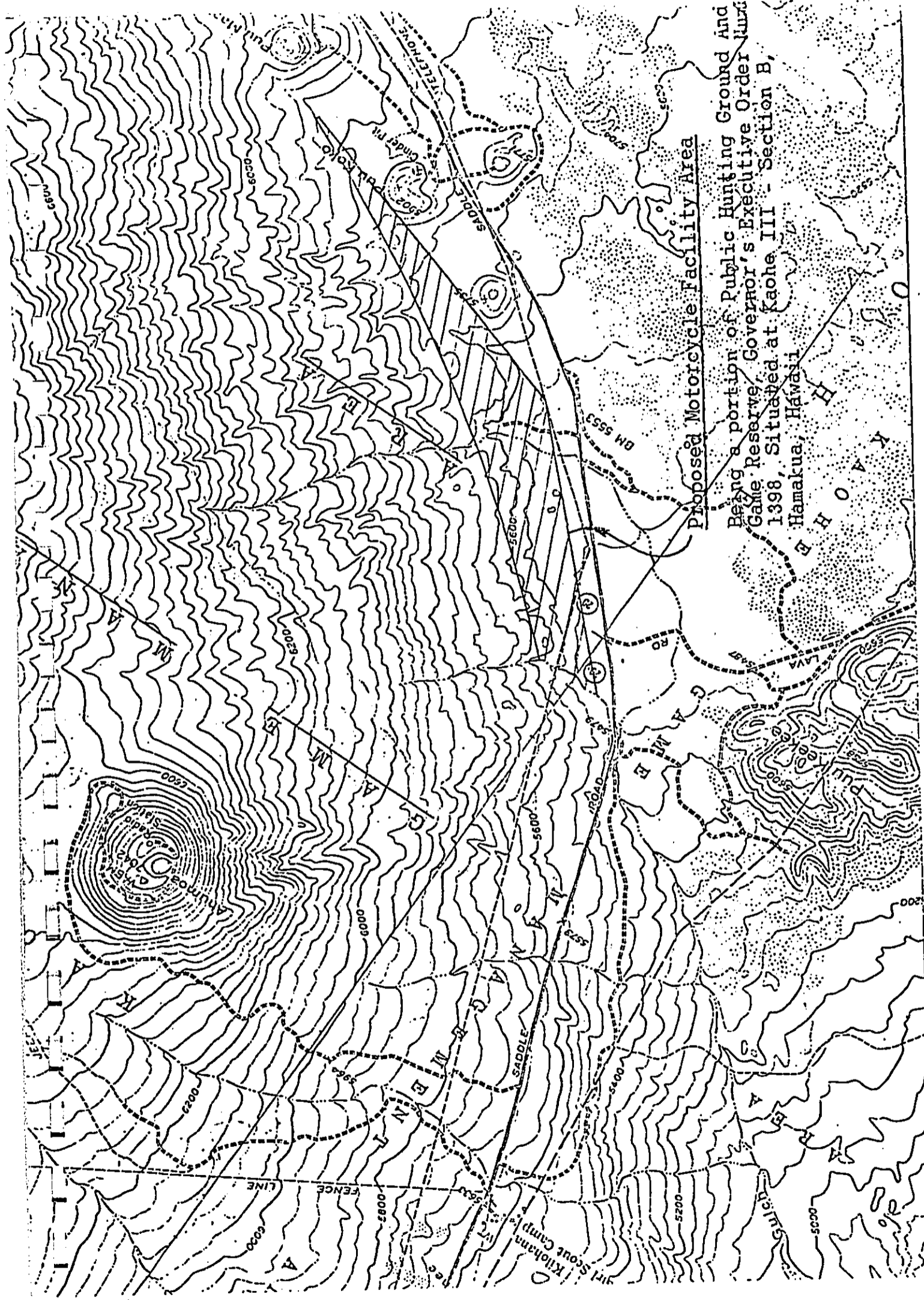
The Kaohe Game Management Area, Unit G, adjacent mauka to the proposed area of useage, allows bow and arrow hunting of pigs and feral sheep on a year-round basis. It also allows bird hunting with 12 and 20-gauge shotguns only on weekends and holidays during November and December and through the third week-end in January each year. Due to the limited flight distance of both arrows and shot, hazard to users of this proposed area is judged to be slight. The military live-firing is done in an area 2 to 3 miles distant and is not directed toward this proposed area. If desired by the State, individual hold-harmless agreements in favor of the State can be given. Insurance coverage similar to the Wailee motorcycle park on Oahu will be offered.

8. Operational Scheduling

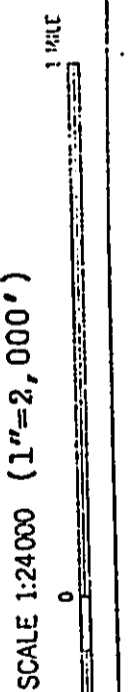
The proposed use will be on week-ends and holidays year-round, along with Wednesdays of each week for the considerable number of motorcycle riders on the Big Island who work in the tourist service industry and must work week-ends. Any other special times of use to be by separate request to, and approval of, the Department of Land and Natural Resources.



LOCATION MAP

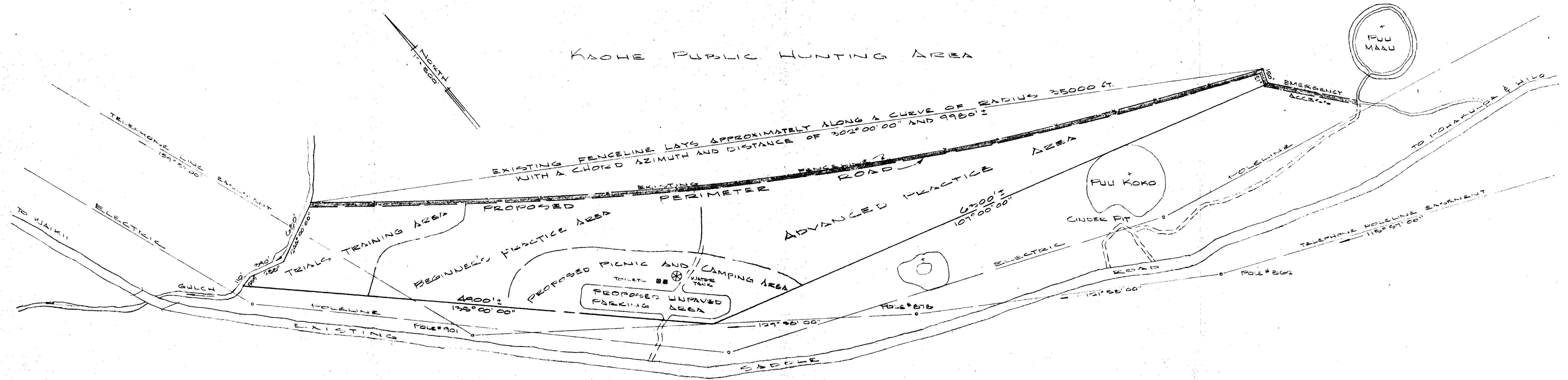


Proposed Motorcycle Facility Area
Being a portion of Public Hunting Ground And
Game Reserve, Governor's Executive Order No. 1398,
1398, Situated at Kaohi III - Section B,
Hamakua, Hawaii



SCALE 1:24000 (1"=2,000')

KAOHE PUBLIC HUNTING AREA



MILITARY TRAINING RANGE

**POHAKULOA MOTORCYCLE
RECREATIONAL FACILITY**
 TMR: 4-4-15-04 SCALE 1"=500'
 3-15-76 HVG

B. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The proposed use does not involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource. The actual physical improvements are slight in extent, relatively temporary in actual physical fact, and there will be no extensive grading; only that for the toilets, water-tank and immediate area, estimated to not exceed 2,000 square feet in area. The perimeter road proposed in the attached site plan is not a graded road, but a roadway that is trimmed only as is needed for access by trail motorcycles. The parking area indicated will not be cleared, grubbed or graded; but will be trimmed only when and as required for the parking of autos, pick-ups and campers.
2. In the location proposed, the proposed use does not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment; as a hunting area, the hunters have gone on record as not desiring or requiring the use of the area as they feel it has no game. As an open transition use zone it will be preserved with the proposed use with no long-term scarring and with very little dislocation of the existing exotic plant life. In general it is preferred that the existing plant life remain just as is with some very minor trimming in the areas previously discussed.
3. The proposed use does not substantially affect the economic welfare of the community except where the motorcycle industry is involved and certain supportive businesses such as sporting goods, auto and truck dealers, gas and oil dealers, etc. As regards social welfare; this facility will provide recreational facilities for an extremely large segment of the Big Island population, a figure reliably estimated to exceed 1,000 people.
4. Sociological activities should be favorably increased with the advent of the proposed recreational facility. In other areas, such as Waimanalo, beginning motorcycle use and training is used to good advantage in the rehabilitation of delinquent youngsters, and is one of the many possible benefits of this proposed facility.
5. There will be no substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities from this proposed use.
6. There will be no substantial degradation of environmental quality from this proposed use. Much of the area has no vegetational cover. The preponderance of vegetation is pampas grass which will be ridden around and not generally disturbed. There will be a limited amount of vegetation trimming in the area of the parking and toilet facilities amounting to no more than 3 acres in area, but no actual clearing, grubbing or grading except as previously noted for the toilet-water tank area. The least change physically to the property is the most desirable in the view of the Big Island Motorcycle Assoc.

7. The significant effect of this proposed use on the environment is very limited individually and will not cumulatively have an effect.
8. This proposed use does not affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or habitat.
9. Motorcycle operational sounds can at times be a problem. In this particular instance several mitigating factors apply.

Mufflers will be a continuing requirement in order to use the area. Sound does not generally carry in a mauka-makai direction at this site, but in a northwesterly direction paralleling the Saddle Road and in the direction of the prevailing wind currents. Any sounds from the use of motorcycles would be further mitigated by the explosions of ordnance several miles away during Pohakuloa military training exercises. Army and Marine vehicles operate immediately adjacent, on both sides of the Saddle Road, which, together with the civilian auto and truck traffic extant on the Saddle Road create a considerable ambient noise level at irregular intervals. The nearest occupied building, and that on an irregular basis, is the Kilohana Girl Scout Camp 1.7 miles away on the Waimea side of the saddle and motorcycle sounds could not be heard there. Since the nearest point of the proposed facility is itself approximately 300 feet from the Saddle Road, motorcycle operational sound will probably not be heard by drivers on the Saddle Road. Mention should be made that the newly-approved State noise code does not apply to Hawaii County.

It becomes apparent that motorcycle operational sounds will not be a problem to humans in the vicinity. It has also been noted that game animals are not greatly affected by motorcycle sounds if they are not immediately present.

There will be some dust at dryer times of the year. Here too, several mitigating factors are of note.

The Army and Marine vehicles operating immediately adjacent on both sides of the Saddle Road create a considerable amount of dust during their training periods; far greater than that of motorcycle operation. Also, the motorcycle useage proposed is for more of a learning and trail riding useage than of other types of useage, and these types of useage do not inherently create dust in a magnitude that it might be considered a problem. There are extended periods during the year when the predominantly cinder and silty-sand ground has adequate moisture level to preclude the formation of dust. As noted previously, the prevailing wind direction is northwesterly towards the saddle and parallel to the Saddle Road so that any dust created will generally settle on the property itself and not on the Saddle Road or the hunting area mauka.

10. The proposed use does not affect the environmentally sensitive area of the Mauna Kea Forest Preserve some three miles further mauka, nor any other environmentally sensitive area.

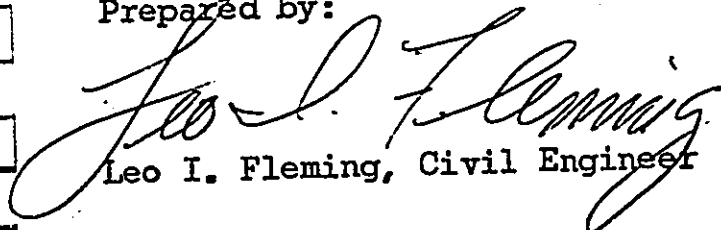
C. ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

State Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaiian Telephone
Department of the Army
State Department of Fish and Game
State Forestry Department
Hawaii County Council Committee on Transportation and Recreation
Hawaii Island Archery Club

D. SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS

1. County of Hawaii Resolution #325 (attached)
2. State House of Representatives Resolution #460 (attached)

Prepared by:


Leo I. Fleming, Civil Engineer

County of Hawaii—State of Hawaii
Resolution No. 345

WHEREAS, on December 12, 1974, the Hawaii County Council adopted Resolution No. 325, which urged the U. S. Army and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to grant the Big Island Motorcycle Association (BIMA), a suitable site for trail riding and off-road motorcycling; and

WHEREAS, this request was denied by the U. S. Army for reasons that the site under consideration was in close proximity to artillery fire and that the proposed use was not compatible with hunting; and

WHEREAS, in a renewed effort, the BIMA presently seeks consideration of an alternate site on a 156 acre parcel in Pohakuloa Area 6; and

WHEREAS, this area is more specifically described as being a portion of Public Hunting Ground and Game Reserve, Governor's Executive Order Number-1398, situated at Kaohē III-Section B, Hamakua, Hawaii, and appropriately shaded in the map attached (TMK 4-4-15-por.4); and

WHEREAS, the BIMA would like to utilize this area on weekends and holidays or any such time as not to be in conflict with military activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII that it endorses the request of BIMA and recommends that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources give favorable consideration by granting a lease to this organization to permit motorcycling activities at the alternate motorcycling site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be instructed to forward true copies of this resolution to Mr. Christopher Cobb, Chairman of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources; Board Members; Major General Donnelly Bolton, Commanding General, U. S. Army Support Command; BIMA, Inc.; and the Hawaii Island Fish and Game Association.

Dated at Hilo, Hawaii, this 5th day of February, 1975.

INTRODUCED BY:

Robert M. Yamada
CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COUNCIL

[Signature]

William K. Kaulana

Alexo Hiroaka

Andrew Lani

Tommy Fujie

Paul K. Lai

James W. III

Josephine L. Yadao
COUNCILMEN, COUNTY OF HAWAII

(To be made one and a half copies)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 1975
STATE OF HAWAII

H. R. NO. 460

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SETTING ASIDE OF STATE LANDS IN HAWAII COUNTY
FOR OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING.

WHEREAS, the use of motorcycles for basic transportation and recreation is becoming increasingly widespread in the State; and

WHEREAS, there are more than ten thousand motorcycles registered in the State, and more than seven hundred in Hawaii County; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of motorcycles are designed and specially constructed for use "off the road"; and

WHEREAS, off-road riding is growing in popularity; and

WHEREAS, organized motorcyclists and experts in vehicle safety and related matters recognize that off-road riding is safest and most compatible with the interests of the general public when it is conducted in areas specially set aside for motorcycling; and

WHEREAS, state lands appropriate for this purpose, if designated for off-road riding under suitable regulation, would benefit many motorcyclists as well as the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has recognized the benefits of off-road motorcycling areas, and has set aside lands at Waialeale, Kahuku, Oahu for such use; and

WHEREAS, comparable facilities should be made available to serve all Hawaii County motorcyclists who desire them; and

WHEREAS, the Big Island Motorcycle Association has requested designation of land within Pohakuloa Area 6, Hamakua, Hawaii, a portion of state land within a public hunting ground and game reserve, to be used for off-road and trail riding; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii County Council, on February 5, 1975, unanimously endorsed Resolution 345, supporting the Big Island Motorcycle Association proposal, and requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to designate Pohakuloa Area 6 as an off-road riding area, for the use of motorcyclists on weekends and holidays or any other time not in conflict with adjacent activities; now, therefore,

H. R. NO. 460

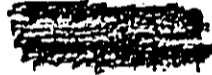
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1975, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to approve the Big Island Motorcycle Association's proposal to establish an off-road riding area at Pohakuloa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Big Island Motorcycle Association, and the Chairman of the Hawaii County Council.

OFFERED BY:

John A. Tamm

FEB 24 1975



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CONSULTATION COMMENTS

October 8 - November 9, 1976

Citizens Against Noise

OFFICERS

President
Joan Hayes (373-1450)

First Vice President
Robert L. Pekarsky

Second Vice President
Stuart Lillico

Treasurer
Erica T. Sullivan

ADVISERS

David Callahan
Rep. Steve Cobb

DIRECTORS

Dr. Merle Ansberry
William J. Atkinson
Dr. John Burgess
David Callahan
Walter Gibbons
Joan Hayes
Fred Hertlein III
Stuart Lillico
Robert L. Pekarsky
Lyle Webster

COMMITTEES

Aircraft
Merle Crow (737-7383)
Desmond Byrne (395-2436)

Barking Dogs
Ellie Armstrong (261-1188)

Construction Noise
Walter Gibbons (734-8526)

Military Liaison:
Wheeler-Schofield
Jan Husic (638-7016)
Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
Gretchen Gould (254-5242)

Nightclub Noise
Lenora Cho (949-3429)

Sirens
Stuart Lillico (734-3703)

Sound Meters
Jim Morrow (537-5966)

Tour Buses
Catherine Harris (923-4259)

Transistor Radios - Parks & Beaches
Helga Frankel (732-1659)

Vehicular Noise
E. P. Aurand (395-5230)

Waikiki Shell
R. P. Goldman (923-8212)

205 Merchant Street, Room 18
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 537-3490

November 4, 1976

Mr. Leo Fleming
Big Island Motorcycle Association
P. O. Box 396
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dear Mr. Fleming:

I am writing to ask that Citizens Against Noise be a consulted party in connection with the proposed motorcycle park on the island of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Joan Hayes

Joan Hayes
President

CD PLNG. 0 JAN 5 1977
BY *sh*
GORDON _____
ROGER ✓ _____
AKIO _____
ESTELLE _____ POST _____
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LEO I. FLEMING -- CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 396 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

(808) 329-2141
324-1288

November 15, 1976

Ms. Joan Hayes, President
Citizens Against Noise
205 Merchant Street, Room 18
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Over-night camping, motorcycle training and recreational
area of a portion of TMK: 4-4-15:4 at Pohakuloa, Hamakua,
Hawaii.

Dear Ms. Hayes:

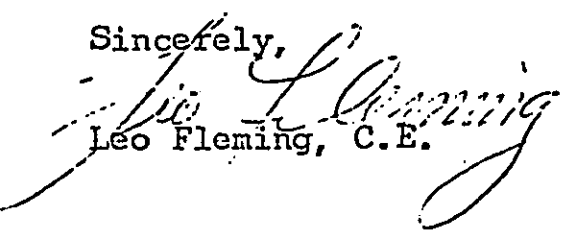
Thank you for your letter of November 4th. We would like to offer
the following comments regarding this application.

Motorcycle operational sounds can at times be a problem. In this
particular instance several mitigation factors apply.

Mufflers will be a continuing requirement in order to use the area.
Sound does not generally carry in a mauka-makai direction at this
site, but in a northwesterly direction paralleling the Saddle Road
and in the direction of the prevailing wind currents. Any sounds
from the use of motorcycles would be further mitigated by the explo-
sions of ordinance several miles away during Pohakuloa military
training exercises. Army and Marine vehicles operate immediately
adjacent, on both sides of the Saddle Road, which, together with
the civilian auto and truck traffic existing on the Saddle Road create
a considerable ambient noise level at irregular intervals. The
nearest occupied building, and that on an irregular basis, is the
Kilohana Girl Scout Camp 1.7 miles away on the Waimea side of the
saddle and motorcycle sounds could not be heard from there. Since
the nearest point of the proposed facility is itself approximately
300 feet from the Saddle Road, motorcycle operational sound will
probably not be heard by drivers on the Saddle Road. Mention should
be made that the newly-approved State noise code does not apply to
Hawaii County.

It seems apparent that motorcycle operational sounds will not be
a problem to the general public in this instance. If you have
comments and input that you desire to transmit it will most cer-
tainly be utilized.

Sincerely,


Leo Fleming, C.E.



For the Better Protection of Wildlife in Hawaii
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

September 20, 1976

P. O. Box 5032
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

P.O. Box 275
Volcano, HI 96785

EQC Bulletin
550 Halekauwila Street, Room 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I would appreciate receiving a copy of this Negative Declaration listed in the August 23 Bulletin:

ESTABLISH SINGLE FREQUENCY OUTLET (SFO) AT KILAUEA
Federal Aviation Admin., Pacific/Asia Region.

On a separate matter, could you tell me the status of the following "Anticipated EIS":

Overnight Camping & Motorcycle Rider's Training Area
& Motorcycle Recreation Use (Big Island Motorcycle
Assoc./DLNR)

I wrote to Mr. Leo Fleming on May 18 raising a series of questions on the project, after the EIS Preparation Notice was listed in the May 8 EQC Bulletin giving Mr. Fleming as the contact person. He telephoned me a few weeks later to respond to my questions and said he would send a copy of the EIS. I haven't received it -- apparently it hasn't been released since it is still listed as an "Anticipated EIS."

A few weeks ago, in the company of several botanists, I visited the approximate area from Mr. Fleming's description: the north side of the Saddle Road between the PUU LA'AU access road and the western boundary of the Pohakuloa Army Camp. Although it may look like "scrub" to some, there is some interesting and perhaps uncommon native vegetation in the area: endemic Dubautia shrubs and several sandalwood trees currently under study by a UH graduate student in Botany for a M.A. thesis.

Should such an undeveloped area with native ground cover and trees at a near-alpine (6,000' elevation) location in the midst of a spectacular landscape of cinder cones between Hawaii's two highest mountains be converted to all the disruption of motorcycle use? Surely there must be more appropriate land closer to sea level that has already been substantially altered by man!

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Mae E. Mull
Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Representative

REC'D PLNG. O. HNL 5 1976

BY Exp ()

GORDON _____

ROGER _____

ANN _____

STELLE _____

FILE IN: _____

For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife



HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

LIBRARY November 2, 1976

Attn: Len Bautista,
DLNR

P. O. Box 5032
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

P.O. Box 275
Volcano, HI 96785

Mr. Leo Fleming
Big Island Motorcycle Assoc.
P.O. Box 396
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Re: EIS Preparation Notice published in the EQC Bulletin on October 8, 1976
for: OVERNIGHT CAMPING & MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' TRAINING AREA, & MOTORCYCLE
RECREATION USE, KAOHE, ISLAND OF HAWAII. Big Island Motorcycle
Association/ Dept. of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Fleming:

You are listed as the contact person for the above action. I am writing to request that the Hawaii Audubon Society, with the writer as its representative, be a consulted party in the preparation of the EIS.

I first wrote to you about this proposed action on May 18, raising a series of questions then, after an EIS Preparation Notice for the same project had been published in the EQC Bulletin on May 8. You kindly telephoned me later and said you would send me a copy of the draft EIS. Apparently there have been changes in procedure for the project since then.

In reply to my letter to EQC on September 20 concerning the status of this project, Mr. Allan Suematsu wrote to me on October 1, in part:

"We have since learned that State lands are involved and have therefore shifted responsibility for EIS preparation to DLNR and of EIS acceptance to the Governor."

At this point it is not clear to me where the responsibility lies for the EIS, so I will send copies of this letter and of my May 18 letter to Mr. Suematsu at EQC and to Mr. Len Bautista at DLNR.

The Society has several concerns about the site of the project -- in an undeveloped area in a mountainous location at 6,000 feet elevation. An investigation should be made for an alternate site at lower elevation in an area that has already been substantially altered by human activity. A high elevation site in the midst of a spectacular landscape between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa surely is not a requirement for a motorcycle recreation area.

In August, in the company of several botanists, I visited the approximate project site on the north side of the Saddle Road between the Pu'u La'au access road on the east and the boundary of the Pohakuloa Army Camp on the west. The native vegetation cover may contain some uncommon endemic shrub and tree species. A thorough survey of the flora and fauna should be made, as well as an objective impact assessment of noise, dust, erosion, soil compaction, air quality and loss of ground cover. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the preparation notice and a map of the site. Thank you very much.

Mae E. Mull *Mae E. Mull*

Attn: Len Bautista,
DLNR

C O P Y
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY
letterhead

May 18, 1976

Mr. Leo Fleming
Big Island Motorcycle Association
P.O. Box 396
Kailua-Kona
Hawaii 96740

Re: Overnight Camping & Motorcycle Rider's Training Area, & Motorcycle Recreation Use, Kahe, Island of Hawaii

Dear Mr. Fleming:

You are listed as the contact person for the EIS Preparation Notice for the above action in the EOC Bulletin for May 8, 1976. Also, I have received a copy of the April 22 letter to you on this subject from Mr. Christopher Cobb, Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The limited information from these sources raises several questions that you will probably address in the EIS under preparation.

Is the landowner the State of Hawaii, and is all the land involved within the Conservation District?

Is the Motorcycle Association seeking a lease from the Board of Land and Natural Resources? Under what terms?

What are the acreages for the construction site and for motorcycle recreation use? Will you define the areas in a detailed map?

Is the Association paying the construction costs? Is it to be used exclusively by Association members? How often?

What is the vegetative cover of the land area, in both native and introduced flora? What native birds, game birds and game mammals use the area? What will be the effects of the proposed use on the flora and fauna? Is the area within the mamane forest?

What effects can be expected from loss of ground cover, erosion, soil compaction, loss of soil moisture, noise and dust?

Has the Association looked for alternate sites that already have been substantially altered by the activities of man?

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the EIS for review and comment. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours, //S//

Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Representative
P.O. Box 275, Volcano, HI 96785

LEO I. FLEMING - - CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 396 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

(808) 329-2141
324-1288

December 2, 1976

Ms. Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Representative
Hawaii Audubon Society
Box 275
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Subject: Overnight Camping & Motorcycle Training and Recreational
Area of a portion of TMK: 4-4-15:4 at Pohakuloa, Hamakua,
Hawaii.

Dear Ms. Mull:


Thank you for your letters of September 20th and November 2nd regarding
the subject project.

In compliance with your request I am attaching a copy of the location
map of the proposed use.

It does appear that the site you describe in your letters is approxi-
mately 1½ miles North of the proposed site. The proposed site lies,
almost in it's entirety, below an elevation of 5,680 feet and does not
appear to be the one that you have inspected in the field. The map
should assist you in your field investigation.

You will be provided with a copy of the draft EIS.

Sincerely,


Leo Fleming, C.E.

2783



COUNTY OF HAWAII

May 17, 1976

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 98720

RECEIVED

16 MAY 20 AM 8:55

HERBERT T. MATAYOSHI
Mayor
RAYMOND H. SUEFUI
Director
STATE OF HAWAII
MAY 21 1976

Rec'd Plng. O.
By: *[Signature]*
Gordon _____
Rogoy _____
Lee _____
FHE _____

Mr. Christopher Cobb, Chairman & Member
Board of Land and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Conservation District Use Application
Big Island Motorcycle Association
Public Recreational Use, HA-4/7/76-788

Thank you for this opportunity to review the subject application for overnight camping and motorcycle riding training facilities along the Saddle Road in Kahohe, Hamakua District, Hawaii, submitted by the Big Island Motorcycle Association.

We think it is rather premature at this point to offer our recommendations, as an environmental impact statement seems to be warranted first. The application raises a number of questions which should be addressed in the EIS, or be resolved by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, such as:

1. Will activities other than the training of motorcycle riders be permitted in the area? Is the area to be used as a trail bike park by experienced riders only? It is not entirely clear as to what exactly will be involved in the proposed uses as the description included in the application is rather general.
2. From the standpoint of site selection, what other areas were considered by the Association and what are the reasons for the selection of this particular site? Is this the most suitable site on the island?
3. How does the Association propose to administer and maintain the park? If they propose that the park be regulated by their organization, will its use be limited only to their members or will it be open to all cyclists. If they propose that the Division of State Parks maintain the facilities, would it not be more appropriate for that Division to petition the Board rather than the Association?
4. If the Association as a private organization proposes to administer and maintain the area, will it be necessary to subdivide, lease, and bid for the use of the land?

Mr. Christopher Cobb
Page 2
May 17, 1976


5. What is the relationship between this proposal and the Mauna Kea Master Plan?

6. Will the cinder cones within the area be used, and how does the Association propose to erase trail scars should the park site be abandoned?

7. Although the application states that hunters do not consider the area as desirable game area, we feel that the impact statement should include an expanded discussion of the hunter versus cyclist needs in the area. For example, how far away must "no shooting" limits be placed in order for cyclists to safely conduct activities?

Because of such questions as the foregoing, may we ask that the application be deferred until an impact statement has been prepared and adequate review has been made.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.


RAYMOND SUEFUJI
Director

VKG:rfd

cc: Mayor
Director, Research & Development
Mildred Yamamoto
Larry Mehau

4546



COUNTY OF HAWAII
October 18, 1976

RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
76 OCT 19 AM 7:56
25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720

DEPT. OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

HERBERT T. MATAYOSHI
Mayor
RAYMOND H. SUEFUJI
Director

OCT 20 1976

REC'D PLANNING
BY *[Signature]*
GORDON _____
ROGER ✓ _____
AKIO _____
ESTELLE _____ PCST _____
LIBRARY _____

Mr. Christopher Cobb
Chairman and Member
Board of Land & Natural Resources
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Conservation District Use Application
Big Island Motorcycle Association
File #HA 9/20/76-849

We have reviewed the subject resubmittal for recreational use along the Saddle Road in Ka'one, Hamakua District, by the Big Island Motorcycle Association. It is our understanding that an environmental impact statement is being prepared for this proposed motorcycle training and recreational use. Therefore, while it is premature for our recommendations at this point, we are enclosing a copy of our letter of May 17, 1976 to you expressing some of our concerns then, in connection with the original application. May we ask that these concerns be considered in the preparation of the EIS.

Additionally, we submit two more concerns which we would like to have considered:

1. The applicant lists several native plant species that are found in the area. Those that are listed on the proposed endangered species list should be so indicated. The EIS should discuss measures to be taken to mitigate the impact upon these plants. The occurrence of any native or endangered animal species should likewise be discussed.
2. The U.S. Department of the Army, as owner of the adjacent property should be consulted in the drafting of the EIS. They should be afforded an opportunity to review this Conservation District Use Application.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject application. Please send us a copy of the EIS upon its completion. In the meantime, if there are any questions, please feel free to contact us.

[Signature]
RAYMOND SUEFUJI
Director

VKG:rfd
Enclosure

cc: Mayor Matayoshi
Mildred Yamamoto
Larry Mehau
Dir., Research & Development

(

LEO I. FLEMING -- CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 396 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

(BDB) 329-2141
324-1288

December 2, 1976

Raymond Suefuji, Director
Planning Department
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Conservation District Use Application, Overnight Camping & Motorcycle Training and Recreational Area of a portion of TMK: 4-4-15:4 at Pohakuloa, File #HA 9/20/76-849

Dear Mr. Suefuji:

I have been requested by the Board of Land & Natural Resources to reply to your letters of May 17th and October 18th regarding the subject application.

Motorcycle activities will consist of both the training of inexperienced motorcycle riders and trail bike riding by more experienced riders, most generally by and for family use. Motorcycle racing is not anticipated at this site, and is in fact done at a private site in Waimea uniquely suited for same, but which is not available for pleasure riding.

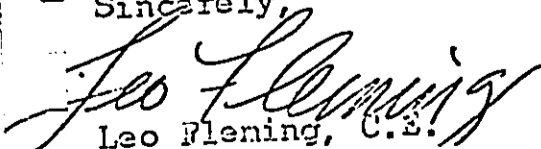
Innumerable sites were looked at, other than the one selected. In Kona, the only sites available were in the area between Kailua and Kawaihae and were located in areas of extremely dangerous AA and Pahoehoe. At other prospective sites on the Big Island that might have been made available, the existing terrain was found to be nearly as inhospitable. The one acceptable site, other than the one selected, is the private site in Waimea which is available on an approximate once-a-month basis, and then only for closely regulated racing events and not for family use. The site chosen is deemed the most suitable on the Big Island, and is perhaps the only one that may become available that is in any way suitable.

The proposed motorcycle park will be regulated by the Big Island Motorcycle Association and will be open and available to all cyclists on those days on which riding is scheduled to be allowed by the State. The facilities will be maintained by the Association. Use of the site will be allowed by the State under revocable permit to the Association.

This site is outside of, and makai of the Mauna Kea Master Plan. The adjacent cinder cones, including the one with the existing quarry, will not be a part of this use.

The EIS will discuss native plant species that are on the Federal endangered species list and will also discuss impact mitigation measures.

Sincerely,


Leo Fleming, C.E.

4432



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
RECEIVED ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, PACIFIC OCEAN
BLDG. 230, FT. SHAFTER
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96558

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8 October 1976

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DEPT. OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

REC'D FLNG. O. DET 14 1076

BY EP

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FILE # _____

Mr. Christopher Cobb, Director
Department of Land & Natural
Resources, State of Hawaii
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Cobb:

This is in response to your letter of 4 October 1976 concerning Conserva-
tion District Use Application HA-9/20/76-849. This application is by the
Big Island Motorcycle Association for use of overnight camping facilities
and motorcycle riders' training and recreational area at Kaohe, Hamakua,
island of Hawaii.

The proposed activity does not involve any work that requires a Department
of the Army permit. We have no other comments.

Sincerely,

Everette A. Peanders
EVERETTE A. PEANDERS
Chief, Construction-Operations
Division



GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 26, 1976

RECEIVED
76 NOV 26 P 1
DIVISIONS:
• CONSERVATION
• FISH AND GAME
• FORESTRY
• LAND MANAGEMENT
• STATE PARKS
• WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
DEPT. OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII
REC'D FILED
DEC 1 1976
BY Sm

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER COBB
FROM: TOM K. TAGAWA, State Forester
SUBJECT: Status and Recommendations of the Division of Forestry on Request for Motorcycle Training and Recreational Area at Pohakuloa, Hawaii, TMK 4-4-15:Por. 4

The present status of this area is as follows:

- a. It is a portion of a large parcel presently encumbered under Governor's Executive Order No. 1398 for a Public Hunting Ground and Game Reserve.
- b. Zoned Conservation by the State Land Use Commission.
- c. Listed as Unplanned or Open by the County of Hawaii.
- d. Almost adjacent to the State lands leased to the military for training purposes.

The original request by the Big Island Motorcycle Association in March of 1975 was for the use of an area in the Pohakuloa District of Hawaii, for an off-road motorcycling site during weekends and on holidays.

The Division of Forestry did not object to this request as long as the Division of Land Management could arrange to make the area available to the association. Action on this request has not yet been finalized by the Division of Land Management.

The subsequent request of May 1976 by the Motorcycle Association includes overnight camping facilities in addition to the motorcycling site.

Chairman Christopher Cobb
Page 2
November 26, 1976

This is an entirely new activity and could lead to problems and added duties and responsibilities for DLNR.

The Division of Forestry is not in favor of allowing overnight camping facilities as a part of this racing area.

Some of the problems that overnight camping could create are listed in the attached comments of the Hawaii District Forester dated May 25, 1976. Allowing this type of activity could result in a larger burden and responsibility than the present sized DLNR administration could cope with.

If the Board of Land and Natural Resources wishes to help the Big Island Motorcycle Association, it may be best to start by making the requested site available for weekend motorcycling together with any necessary restrictions, and then let the Association prove themselves before considering any expanded use of the area.


TOM K. TAGAWA

Attachment

cc: Hawaii District



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME
P. O. BOX 938
HILO, HAWAII 98720

October 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronald L. Walker, Chief, Wildlife Branch
FROM: Ernest Kosaka, District Wildlife Biologist
SUBJ: Comments on Cдуа HA-9/20/76-849

Attached is a xeroxed copy of our comments on Cдуа HA-4/7/76-788, which is the identical request. The comments are still relevant to this most recent application.

There are errors in his comments regarding vegetation. Aheahea is *Chenopodium* and native, not exotic. Also, the mountain love grass is native - the only exotic grasses in the area are ripgut brome and some manienie.

I have some other reservations:

1. There is sure to be scarring of terrain, unless the users are restricted to certain routes or roadways. A look at the hills at Hookomo and on Mauna Kea will clearly show the long range effects of even one motorcycle dash up a hill.

2. The campsite(s) must meet Board of Health standards so that the area remains sanitary. However, with overnight camping use this may not be feasible.

I would also like to add that the allegation that since the military makes a lot of noise, the motorcycle is less, is not a good justification.

Ernest Kosaka

ERNEST KOSAKA
District Wildlife Biologist

EK:ejk

cc: L Mehau

Concur: *Ronald Walker* *YMT*

ARIYOSHI
OF HAWAII



DIVISIONS:
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME
1179 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

203.005

21 May 1976

MEMORANDUM:

To: Ronald L. Walker; Chief, Wildlife Branch
From: Ernest Kosaka, District Wildlife Biologist
Subject: CDUA HA-4/7/76-788


The requested use will have an impact on the hunting program. There is significant use of the area, especially the hills, during the annual game bird seasons. It provides fair to good hunting for chukar, California Valley quail, and pheasants. Grey, black and some Erckel's francolins also utilize this range, but their numbers are presently low. Disturbance by racing motorcycles on weekends and holidays cannot help but affect the bird hunting program from November to the third weekend of January.

There is an access road shown leading to the proposed parking area. This jeep road is utilized by archery hunters to gain access to the back portions of Puu O Kau and Puu Kauha. The perimeter road shown would chop off the access presently utilized by the archery hunters.

We have two game bird water units in the area. Both of these would not serve their function if the area is turned over to a motorcycle racing track. The proposed use would chase away the birds.

Although the sandalwood (iliah) is not an endangered species, it is an uncommon endemic plant of this area. There are two groves of these trees that will be affected by the use applied for. The better of the two groves is in the upper right hand corner of the area shown as a Trials Training Area.

Should it be decided that this area is to be turned over for the use applied for, we must reserve the right of way to Ahumoa, remove the two water units, reserve some weekend and holiday use of the area for bird hunting, and also insist that the groves of iliahi be preserved.


ERNEST KOSAKA
District Wildlife Biologist

cc L. Mehau

526 1

HA-849
LEO I. FLEMING -- CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 306 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

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REC'D FLNG. O. DEC 9 1975
BY S-2
76 DEC 8 A 8:30

(808) 329-2141
324-1288

December 6, 1976

DEPT. OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

Christopher Cobb, Chairman
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

GORDON _____
ROGER ✓ _____
AKIO _____
STELLE _____ POST _____
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Subject: CDUA and EIS for Recreational Use (overnight camping, motor-cycle training and recreational area) of a portion of TMK: 4-4-15:4 situated at Pohakuloa, Hamakua, Hawaii.

Dear Mr. Cobb:

In this letter I will address myself to those points brought out by your Divisions of Forestry and of Fish & Game.

In view of the attendant problems in both maintenance and management of an overnight camping facility, and in recognition of the cabin facilities already available for such use at the Mauna Kea State Park some five miles away, it does appear that this portion of the CDUA request should likely be deleted. I have contacted the BIMA and they concur.

The water tank in question need only be in the 2,000 to 3,000 gallon range in size and should be of a non-corrosive material with it's own catchment top which, during more rainy periods, will catch some water. At other times of no rainfall, water will need to be hauled.

The latrine facilities are anticipated to be of a permanent frame-type construction, women's side and men's side, the men's side to have a urinal trough also. In the interest of water preservation, it seems prudent to utilize the waterless type of latrine situate over a cess-pool type pit. The alternate of chemical toilets has been investigated and it has been determined that two of these would require an on-going maintenance charge from the distributor of approximately \$200 per month. It would seem that the aforementioned permanent facility with it's attendant low maintenance cost of less than an estimated \$10 per month would be more maintainable than the chemical toilets and would also be much more in keeping with the surroundings esthetically. The permanent facility will easily handle the number of people that will be using it and will also meet State Board of Health standards since it is nowhere near a source of groundwater used for drinking purposes.

The construction of four safe fireplaces is anticipated and hoped for.

This is not proposed to be a racing facility. Racing is done on a private parcel at Waimea which has been made available for racing only on an approximate once-a-month basis. This facility is intended and needed primarily for family use. Such use is, of necessity and desire, primarily training and trail-type riding. The requested use of weekends and Wednesdays will not engender spectator-type crowds, but rather, will be far more of a steady and continuing count.

LEO I. FLEMING -- CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 396 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

(808) 329-2141
324-1288

December 6, 1976

cont. : motorcycle facility at Pohakuloa.

Trash disposal will be handled by the Big Island Motorcycle Association. They have been successfully doing same at their racing facility at Waimea for nearly three years now, and it is reasonable to assume that they can well accomplish the same at this proposed facility. They are also prepared to handle the requisite latrine maintenance, just as they now do at the Waimea facility.

There is no real reason why the use of the cleared parking area, water tank and latrine could not be extended to bird hunters, and the Big Island Motorcycle Association has agreed to such an arrangement.

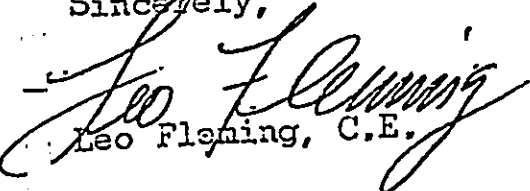
The proposed perimeter road is not a road in the truest sense. It will not be graded, but will instead be only trimmed sufficient for rider visibility and will not cut off any hunter access to the back portions of Pu'u O Kau and Pu'u Kauha. Hunter access denial is not intended nor contemplated. Field adjustments to the plan to accommodate hunter access at all times, will be done.

Protection of the sandalwood trees by surround-type fencing was proposed in the Appendix to the Draft EIS, which appendix is dated August 13th. If the fencing is extensive enough, the two existing bird watering units may well be left where they are.

The Āheahea, Goatsfoot (*Chenopodium album*) which was noted in the aforementioned addendum as an exotic was noted in error, it is endemic. The Manienie-Ali'i, Goosegrass, Wiregrass (*Eleusine indica*) and the Ripgutgrass (*Bromus rigidus*, var. *gussonei*) along with grey, black and Erckel's francolins, all as mentioned by Fish & Game, will be noted in the final addendum to the Draft EIS.

As regards the motorcyclist's restricted use during the bird hunting season; the Big Island Motorcycle Association is hopeful that their use of the facility will not be completely restricted from November to the third weekend of January. Their feeling is that they represent a substantial percentage of the tax-paying segment of the Big Island and that this proposed facility acreage falls far short of such a percentage as compared to the extensive acreages now available to hunters, and to further restrict such facility acreage to 75% use might not be equitable.

Sincerely,


Leo Fleming, C.E.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Division of Ecological Services
821 Mililani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

2133

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76 MAY 11 PM 1:37

Reference: ES

May 10, 1976

DEPT. OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII
Rec'd Plg. Q. MAY 13 1976
By: *[Signature]*

Mr. Christopher Cobb, Chairman of the Board
State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Gordon _____

Rogers _____

Len _____
FILE _____

Re: CDUA HA-4/7/76-788
Big Island Motorcycle Assn
Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii

Dear Sir:

This provides comments on the referenced Conservation District Use Application. The applicant proposes to develop a motorcycle training and recreational area with overnight camping facilities at Pohakuloa, Hawaii.

During development of the subject project, environmental disturbances should be minimized through employment of stringent erosion control measures. More effective management of the area also requires implementation of erosion control measures during operation of the facility.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice H. Taylor

Maurice H. Taylor
Area Supervisor

cc: RD (ES), Portland
HDF&G



LEO I. FLEMING -- CIVIL ENGINEER
NORTH KONA SHOPPING CENTER
Post Office Box 396 -- Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

(BDB) 329-2141
324-1288

November 16, 1976

Mr. Maurice H. Taylor, Area Supervisor
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
821 Mililani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Subject: Over-night camping, motorcycle training and recreational
area of a portion of TMK: 4-4-15:4 at Pohakuloa, Hamakua,
Hawaii.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your letter of May 10th to Mr. Christopher Cobb on
the subject project.

Your point on the minimization of environmental disturbances through
employment of stringent erosion control measures is extremely valid.

There will be no clearing or grubbing and no earthwork except at the
site of the toilet facilities, the water tank and the immediate sur-
rounding area. This would be an area of no more than 2,000 square
feet, and any grading in this area will most certainly follow good
erosion control practices.

We further agree that a continuing program of operational erosion
control measures during operation of the facility should and will
be a part of the program.

We thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,


Leo Fleming, C.E.